UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.6/50/L.1
22 September 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

# ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

## I. ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly decided to allocate 11 items to the Sixth Committee. The titles of these items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 22 September 1995 from the President of the Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/50/1).

## II. DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

3. The following table lists the documents of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. 1/ It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the Assembly, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee, in accordance with requests of Member States. The items are arranged in the order in which they appear in the letter dated 22 September 1995 from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/50/1).

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| | Projected date of issuance |
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| **United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (139)** | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/ ) ..... | mid-November |
| Note by the Secretary-General (appointment of States members of the Advisory Committee) (A/C.6/50/ ) ..... | mid-October |
| **United Nations Decade of International Law (140)** | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/368) ..... | 30 September |
| (A/50/368/Add.1) ..... | early October |
| **Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-seventh session (141)** | |
| Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/50/10) ... | Issued |
| Note by the Secretary-General (A/50/402) ..... | Issued |
| **Establishment of an international criminal court (142)** | |
| Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/50/22) ..... | 2 October |
| **Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-eighth session (143)** | |
| Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/50/17) ... | Issued |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/434) ..... | Issued |
| **Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (144)** | |
| Report of the Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/50/26) ... | November |
| Letter dated 17 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/112-S/1995/207) ..... | Issued |

| | Projected date of issuance |
|---|---|
| **Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (145)** | |
| Report of the Special Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/50/33) | Issued |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/361) | Issued |
| Letter dated 1 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/403) | Issued |
| **Measures to eliminate international terrorism (146)** | |
| Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/372) | 26 September |
| (A/50/372/Add.1) | early October |
| Letters dated 23 January, 10 April, 24 July and 21 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/67-S/1995/64; A/50/133-S/1995/282; A/50/305-S/1995/608; and A/50/359-S/1995/718) | Issued |
| Letters dated 30 March and 26 July 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/128-S/1995/247 and A/50/315-S/1995/622) | Issued |
| Letters dated 12 April and 20 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/135-S/1995/293 and A/50/457-S/1995/811) | Issued |
| Letter dated 28 April 1995 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/168-S/1995/341) | Issued |
| Letter dated 8 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/215-S/1995/475) | Issued |
| Letter dated 19 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/254-S/1995/501) | Issued |

Projected date of issuance

Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto (147)

No new documentation

Review of the procedure provided for under article 11 of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations (148)

No new documentation

Review of the role of the Trusteeship Council (152)

Letter dated 2 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/142) ..... Issued

## III. DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, ORDER AND APPROXIMATE DATES OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly decided that the fiftieth session should recess not later than Tuesday, 19 December 1995, and conclude on Monday, 16 September 1996. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable that the Sixth Committee should arrange its schedule of meetings in such a way that it will conclude its work not later than Friday, 24 November 1995.

6. As regards agenda items 139 to 148 and 152, the Sixth Committee, taking into account the pattern followed in the order of consideration of items at recent sessions of the General Assembly, may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of agenda items referred to it.

| Item | Approximate dates of consideration |
|---|---|
| Election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur and organization of work | 25 September 1995 |
| Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-eighth session | 26-28 September |
| Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto | 29 September |
| Measures to eliminate international terrorism | 2-9 October a/ |
| Review of the procedure provided for under article 11 of the statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations | 9-11 October |
| Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-seventh session 2/ | 12-27 October b/ |
| Establishment of an international criminal court | 30 Oct.-3 Nov. |
| Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization | 6-13 November |
| United Nations Decade of International Law | 14-16 November |
| United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law | 17 November |
| Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country | 20 November |
| Review of the role of the Trusteeship Council 3/ | 21-22 November |
| Reserve | 24 November |

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a/ These dates are suggested bearing in mind that no meetings of the Sixth Committee will be held on 4 and 5 October on account of the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to United Nations Headquarters.

b/ No meetings of Main Committees will be held on 23 and 24 October on account of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

## IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS AND HOLDING OF CONSULTATIONS

7. In connection with the establishment of subcommittees or working groups and the holding of consultations for the purpose of facilitating the work, it should be borne in mind that as regards agenda item 140, entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session requested the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law to continue to work at the fiftieth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work (resolution 49/50 of 9 December 1995).

8. Concerning agenda item 145, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization", the Special Committee, at its 1995 session, invited the General Assembly to consider the establishment of an open-ended working group within the framework of the Sixth Committee, at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, with a view to considering, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 49/58 of 9 December 1994, the issue of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. 4/

9. Since the conference services to be provided for meetings of working groups and for the holding of informal consultations are those allocated to the Sixth Committee, it is important that such meetings and consultations be held in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings of the Committee.

## V. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Main Committees allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if Friday, 24 November 1995, is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), Wednesday, 8 November 1995, would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

## VI. CONFERENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

11. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of seven plenary meetings per week; normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

12. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.

## Notes

1/ The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the fiftieth session. The listing of documents is based on information available as at 22 September 1995.

2/ At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly recommended that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly should commence on 23 October 1995 (resolution 49/51 of 9 December 1994). However, in the light of further developments, it is suggested to advance the consideration of this item to the dates indicated.

3/ At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided that the introduction and initial discussion of this item would be held directly in plenary meeting and its subsequent consideration would be held in the Sixth Committee.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/50/33), para. 42.

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